

application, including those not presently being amended, have been reproduced below for the Examiner's convenience.

9. (Three Times Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:

a first plate including electron-emitting devices;

a second plate being disposed to face said first plate;

a plurality of spacers disposed between said first plate and said second plate, said spacers being disposed substantially in parallel with each other and each having a longitudinal axis extending in a lengthwise direction thereof;

an outer frame hermetically surrounding a space between said first plate and said second plate; and

a getter being disposed between said first plate and said second plate and within the space, and being proximate to a side of said outer frame that is positioned across an imaginary extension of said spacers in the longitudinal axis direction thereof.

10. (Not Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim 9,

wherein said getter is disposed outside a region in which said electron-emitting devices are formed.

11. (Not Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim 9,

wherein at least one part of said getter is positioned within a region surrounded by the imaginary extension of two of said spacers in the longitudinal direction thereof, said two spacers being in outermost sides.

12. (Not Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said getter is a ring-shaped getter.

13. (Not Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim 9, wherein a region in which said electron-emitting devices are formed is an approximate rectangle and said spacer is disposed from one side of said region to an opposite side of said region.

14. (Not Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said electron-emitting devices are field emission type electron-emitting devices.

15. (Not Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said electron-emitting devices are surface conduction electron-emitting devices.

16. (Not Amended) The image forming apparatus to claim 9, wherein said getter is disposed on the periphery of at least one corner of said outer frame.

17. (Not Amended) The image forming apparatus to claim 9, wherein said getter is disposed on said first plate.

REMARKS

Claims 9-17 are presented for consideration, with Claim 9 being independent.

Claim 9 has been amended to further distinguish Applicants' invention from the cited art.